

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. Method of intercepting a voice/multimedia communication in a virtual
2 private network, the method comprising:
3 setting up the voice/multimedia communication in the virtual private
4 network, the communication composed of a plurality of data packets and signaling
5 information;
6 extracting an identifying information for the voice/multimedia
7 communication from the signaling information;
8 determining whether at least one participant in the voice/multimedia
9 communication matches an intercept subject;
10 duplicating the plurality of data packets and the signaling information if it
11 is determined that there is a match; and
12 re-originating the plurality of data packets and the signaling information in
13 the virtual private network.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising encapsulating the
2 data packets and storing the data packets in a database if there is a match.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising transporting the
2 duplicated data packets to a law enforcement agency if there is a match.

1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining
2 includes comparing an image/picture from the voice/multimedia communication with an
3 image/picture of the intercept subject.

1 5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the step of determining is
2 performed only until one or more predefined criteria are satisfied if there is no match
3 between the image/picture from the voice/multimedia communication and the
4 image/picture of the intercept subject.

1 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining is
2 performed for substantially all voice/multimedia communications occurring in the virtual
3 private network if only an image/picture of the intercept subject is available.

1 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining is
2 performed only when the identifying information extracted from the signaling
3 information matches an identifying information for the intercept subject.

1 8. The method according to claim 9, further comprising collecting and
2 storing the identifying information of the intercept subject if the step of determining
3 results in a match.

1 9. A virtual private network capable of intercepting a voice/multimedia
2 communication composed of a plurality of data packets and signaling information being
3 routed therethrough, the virtual private network comprising:
4 a call control entity configured to set up the voice/multimedia
5 communication in the virtual private network and to extract an identifying information
6 from the signaling information; and
7 a call intercepting server configured to determine whether at least one
8 participant in the voice/multimedia communication matches an intercept subject and to
9 duplicate the plurality of data packets and the signaling information if there is a match;
10 wherein the call control entity is further configured to re-originate the plurality of data
11 packets and the signaling information in the virtual private network.

1 10. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein the
2 voice/multimedia communication complies with one or more predefined signaling
3 protocols, including a Voice Over IP (VoIP) protocol.

1 11. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein the signaling
2 information complies with one or more predefined signaling protocols, including a
3 Sessions Initiation Protocol (SIP) and a H.323 protocol.

1 12. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein format of the
2 data packets complies with one or more predefined routing protocols, including a
3 Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP).

1 13. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein the call
2 intercepting server is a stand-alone server that is separate from the call control entity.

1 14. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein the call
2 intercepting server is a functional feature within the call control entity.

1 15. The virtual private network according to claim 9, further comprising an
2 access network including a plurality of access routers and a backbone network including
3 a plurality of backbone routers, and the call control entity and the call intercepting server
4 are connected to the access network and the backbone network.

1 16. The virtual private network according to claim 9, further comprising a
2 virtual private network administrator configured to receive legal authorization for
3 intercepting the/multimedia communication and to instruct the call control entity and the
4 call intercepting server to carry out the interception.

1 17. The virtual private network according to claim 9, further comprising a database
2 for storing the identifying information of the intercept subject if there is a match.

1 18. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein the call
2 intercepting server determines if there is a match by comparing an image/picture from the
3 voice/multimedia communication with an image/picture of the intercept subject.

1 19. The virtual private network according to claim 18, wherein the call
2 intercepting server performs the determination only until one or more predefined criteria
3 are satisfied if there is no match between the image/picture from the voice/multimedia
4 communication and the image/picture of the intercept subject.

1 20. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein the call
2 intercepting server performs the determination for substantially all voice/multimedia
3 communications occurring in the virtual private network if only an image/picture of the
4 intercept subject is available.

1 21. The virtual private network according to claim 9, wherein the call
2 intercepting server performs the determination only when the identifying information
3 extracted from the signaling information matches an identifying information for the
4 intercept subject.